

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Calvary United Methodist Church Inventory Number: CH-622
Address: 3235 Leonardtown Road City: Waldorf Zip Code: 20601-3614
County: Charles USGS Topographic Map: La Plata, MD Quad
Owner: Calvary United Methodist Church Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 756 Tax Map Number: 15 Tax Account ID Number: 066666
Project: Waldorf Industrial Park Em. Tower Site - Chas. Co. Govt. Agency: FCC
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Calvary United Methodist Church is located at 3235 Leonardtown Road in the heart of Waldorf, Maryland. The Chapel, dating to 1904, was designed by the architect B.G. Price of New Jersey and constructed by the local contractor Murray & Hamilton. The Chapel features characteristics of the Gothic Revival style.

The MIHP survey form explains: (the Church structure) "... is significant not only architecturally, but also for its association with the historic contexts of religion, transportation and community planning." The form reviews the various stories that establish the significance statement and accurately describes the site conditions as they appear as of this recent site visit.

While several alterations have occurred to the building, such as vinyl siding having been placed over the original wood siding, and a small rear addition added to the building, the structure nevertheless retains its original character defining features. Its architectural integrity intact, eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places is recommended under Criterion C.

Prepared by: Kate Mahood,
Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: July 8, 2003

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: _____

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/17/03
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, NR Program

Date

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)



* NONE *



MAHOOD AND ASSOCIATES, LLC

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY ♦ HISTORIC PRESERVATION ♦ ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

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CH-622
 CALVARY UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH

Scale
 N.T.S.

Date
 7/8/03

Design By

Source
 USGS BRANDYWINE, LAPLATA
 HUGHESVILLE, & PISCATAWAY QUADRANT

Job No.



Calvary United
Methodist Church
WALDORE, MD
CHAS. COUNTY
CH-622

KATE MAHCCD
05-30-2003

MD SHPO
View of Front (North) Facade
Photograph # 1 of 3



CALVARY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY
04-622

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

MD SHPO
View of Front (South) Facade
Photograph # 2 of 3



CALVARY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

CH-622

MD SHPO
view of Side East Facade
Photograph # 3 of 3

Calvary United Methodist Church
CH-622
Waldorf
Public

1904

Calvary United Methodist Church is one of the finest surviving examples of a village chapel in Charles County. Located in the heart of Waldorf, which was first established as a stop along the Popes Creek Railroad in 1878, the chapel was designed by the architect B. G. Price of New Jersey and built by the local contractor Murray & Hamilton.

This handsome frame chapel has a front gable orientation and features many common characteristics of the Gothic Revival style such as lancet windows, sawnwork Victorian trim, a two-tier bell tower with an open belfry and a towering spire. Unlike other surviving examples, the church retains a good deal of its original interior and exterior materials, and stands as an important example of the County's rich architectural heritage.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-622

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Calvary United Methodist Church
other Calvary Chapel (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 3235 Leonardtown Road not for publication
city, town Waldorf vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Calvary United Methodist Church
street and number 3235 Leonardtown Road telephone 301-645-5247
city, town Waldorf state MD zip code 20601

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 15-756
city, town LaPlata liber 10 folio 593

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | Resource Count |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | Contributing Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | 1 buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | 1 sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion | 1 structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic | 1 objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | 1 Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> social | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-622

Condition

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Calvary United Methodist Church, constructed in 1904, is a handsome frame chapel located in Waldorf on the south side of Rt. 5. The gable-front chapel has a steeply pitched roof and a side vestibule with a towering spire. A smaller one-story frame addition extends the sanctuary to the south. The church features many common characteristics of the Gothic Revival style as expressed in sacred architecture such as lancet windows, sawnwork Victorian trim, a two-tier belltower with an open belfry.

The frame chapel is currently sheathed in vinyl siding and rests on a poured concrete foundation. Original pressed metal sheets cover the roof which is pierced at the rear gable end by a single square exterior brick chimney. A historic photo, probably dating from the 1920's shows evidence of decorative cornice brackets that are no longer found on the structure.

The front gable façade is distinguished by a large three-part lancet window. This window is composed of three slender lancet windows capped with three diamond shaped windows above, which are stacked to form the peak. All windows appear to be original and are framed in wood sashes set in wood square-edged surrounds.

The original eastern and western elevations include four bays. The western side includes four symmetrical double-hung 2/2 lancet windows while the eastern side, which includes the belltower, features three. The gable addition includes an exterior door on the western elevation, and a lancet window matching the other fenestration on the eastern elevation.

One of the building's most distinguishing features is a square vestibule with belltower located on the western wall near the front of the building. With double doors placed on the north wall, the belltower serves as the principal entrance into the sanctuary. The vestibule is capped with a two tiered tower with an open belfry decorated with square posts and scroll-sawn brackets. The steep spire is capped with a cross-shaped pinnacle. A bracketed cornice decorates the junction between the belfry and the tower walls. The west tower wall is adorned with a slender 1/1 light double-hung lancet window.

The entrance is characterized by a triangular 4-light transom over the doorway which mimics the lancet windows throughout. Again, historic photos reveal later alterations. The original tall, wooden multi-paneled double doors have been replaced with standard-sized wooden doors and a 2-light transom has been added to compensate for the change in height.

Overall, the chapel structure is well maintained and retains a good deal of its original character and materials. Unfortunately, modern development has compromised the surrounding historic village setting. A large new church has been constructed directly behind this building and a brick rambler parsonage is located to the east.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-622

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> science | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> social history | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Specific dates | 1904 | Architect | B.G. Price, New Jersey |
| Construction dates | 1904 | Builder | Murray & Hamilton, Waldorf |

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Calvary United Methodist Church is one of the finest surviving examples of a village chapel in Charles County. Located in the heart of Waldorf, first established as a stop along the Popes Creek Railroad in 1878, the chapel was designed by the architect B. G. Price of New Jersey and built by the local contractor, Murray & Hamilton. It is significant not only architecturally, but also for its association with the historic contexts of religion, transportation and community planning.

Calvary United Methodist Church was the earliest documented church in the village of Waldorf. According to an article in the Baltimore Sun Dispatch dated 1904:

"For the first time in the history of this town a church bell pealed out on the crisp, frosty air yesterday in Waldorf, a pretty forest village. As its name implies, on the popes Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Charles County, calling the people to public worship."

The village of Waldorf was established in 1872 as a stop on the railroad line. Originally known as Beantown Station, the village steadily grew. At about the time that the first post office was established the growing town was renamed Waldorf and enjoyed a commercial boom throughout the end of the nineteenth century. With growing business opportunities, the surrounding residential community grew as well along with the need for even more services.

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century Waldorf served as a local commercial center for the surrounding community. It was thus the largest village established as a result of the railroad. Other stops along the line included LaPlata, White Plains, and BelAlton.

What eventually became Calvary Church was one of the first Methodist churches in Southern Maryland. It evolved from the older Oakland Church congregation which was part of the seven-point Prince-George's Circuit. The first building was at the present Oakland Cemetery which stands one mile west on Berry Road. In 1898, property for a new church was given by Philip and Ella Sasser in 1898 and the new chapel was constructed within six years.

Calvary United Methodist Church exhibits many common characteristics of late nineteenth and early twentieth religious architecture found in Charles County.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-622

Name Calvary United Methodist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Frequently, such structures combined secular traditions with sacred embellishments most commonly including a front gable orientation, lancet windows, and a prominent belltower. Other details such as fishscale wall treatments and other scroll-sawn woodwork followed popular architectural details commonly found in secular Victorian architecture.

Similar examples of sacred architecture in Charles County include St. Matthews at Newtown (CH-186), Pisgah United Methodist Church (CH-505), and John B. McFerrin Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage (CH-223). The original specifications for the McFerrin Chapel, built near the new LaPlata station had called for a similar belltower which was never completed. Unlike Calvary, McFerrin Chapel has been substantially altered from its original form.

It is possible that the church design, like that of McFerrin Chapel (CH-223) is based on a set of plans provided by the Methodist Episcopal Church's Board of Church Extension through a series of catalogs produced during the last decades of the 19th century. These catalogs contained numerous architect-designed plans for church buildings of moderate cost, that could be ordered at a fee. While little is currently known about B.G. Price, he may have been a contributing architect to these catalogs.

A 1904 newspaper account from the Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun boasts of the chapel which was:

"very substantially built, finished in hardwood and has a seating capacity of 200. It cost \$2000.00, exclusive of specific articles given by various members of the congregation, and is one of the prettiest churches in Southern Maryland. The tower for the belfry is 60 feet high."

With a high degree of architectural integrity and significance, Calvary United Methodist Church is an important part of Charles County's built environment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-622

10. Geographical Data

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Acreage of surveyed property | <u>2.4824</u> | | |
| Acreage of historical setting | <u>2.4824</u> | | |
| Quadrangle name | <u>LaPlata</u> | Quadrangle scale | <u>1:24,000</u> |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 3235 Leonardtown Road is associated with Charles County property Tam May 15, Grid 4, Parcel 756.

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| name/title | Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor | | |
| organization | Charles County Planning Department | date | 10/20/2000 |
| street and number | 200 Baltimore Street | telephone | 301-396-581 |
| city or town | LaPlata | state MD | zipcode 20646 |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-622

Section 8 Page 1

Calvary United Methodist Church
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of Title:

August 12, 1899

Ella A. Sasser, Melvina Turner and J. Samuel Turner, her husband, Phillip T. Sasser and Atta T. Sasser his wife, Ella M. Sasser and Eva M. Sasser to Calvary United Methodist Church. A parcel in the village of Waldorf shown on the survey lately made by Henry Cox. Within six years of this deed there shall be erected on said lot a building to be used as a place of divine worship by the said Methodist Episcopal Church South and provided that a street or lane be laid off 30 feet wide. 2.4824 ac.

Liber 10 Folio 593

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-622

Section 9 Page 1

Calvary United Methodist Church
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., LaPlata, MD. 1958.

Lantz, Ruth; Schreiber, Marion; and Nellie Shelor. "*History of Calvary United Methodist Church of Waldorf, MD.*" Church records, Unpublished. 1975.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 12/2/99

North arrow:



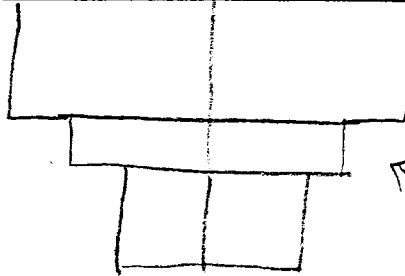
Name: CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 3235 Leonardtown Rd.

CH - 622

Charles County, Maryland

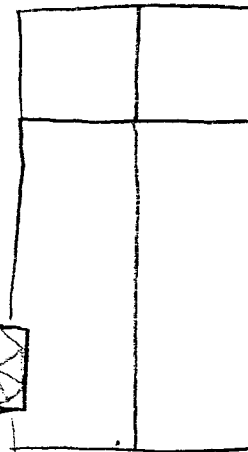
Waldorf ☒ Vicinity



← New Church

PARKING AREA

Parsonage



← 1-story frame
addition



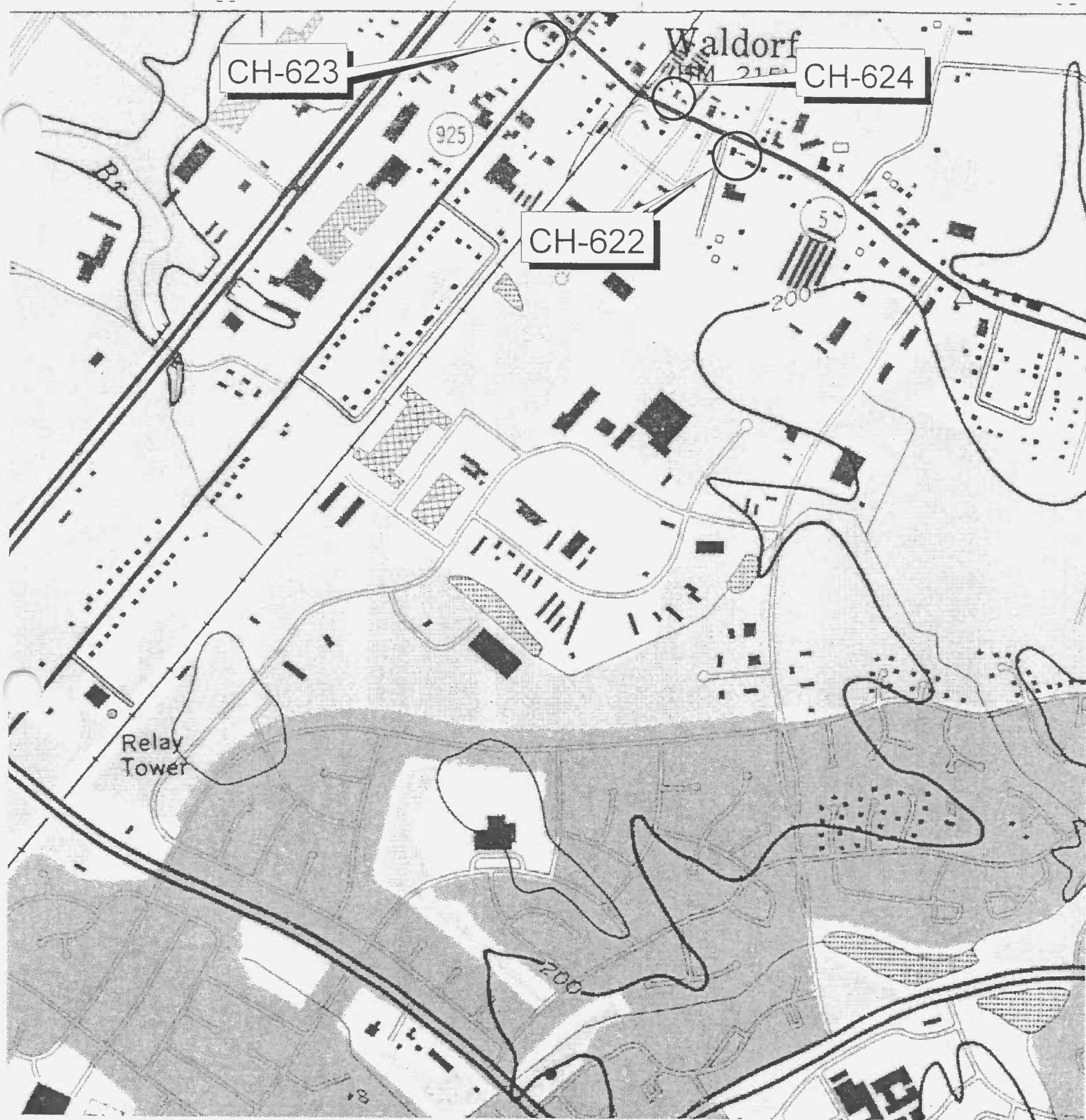
Route 5



Calvary United Methodist Church, circa 1920
Photo courtesy of Ken Whyte

private source - Ken Whyte postcard collection

CH-622



Calvary United Methodist Church
CH-622
Charles County, MD
LaPlata, MD Quad





CH-622

Calvary Methodist Church

Charles County, Md.

11/99

K. G. Smith

Maryland SHPO

Looking SW

1 OF 6



CH-622
Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, MD

11/99
K.G. Smith

Maryland SHPO
Looking NE

2 of 6



CH-622

Calvary Methodist Church

Charles County, Md

11/99

K.G. Smith

Maryland SITDO

Sanctuary, Looking NW

4 of 6



CH-622

Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, Md

11/99

K.G. Smith

Maryland SHPO

SANCTUARY, LOOKING SE
3 OF 6



CH-622

Calvary Methodist Church
Charles Co. Md.

11/99

H.G. Smith

Maryland SHPO

New Church, Looking SE

5 of 6



CH-622

Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, Md

11/99

K.G. Smith

Maryland SHPO

Parsonage, Looking SE
6 of 6